

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were currently pending in the patent application. Of the pending, rejected claims, only claim 18 is the only independent claim. As the Court noted in *In re Fine*, "dependent claims are nonobvious under section 103 if the independent claims from which they depend are nonobvious." 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1569, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Using this same rationale, dependent claims cannot be anticipated if the independent claims from which they depend are not anticipated. Since the Applicant respectfully asserts that these independent claims are allowable, dependent claims 19-20 are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the pending claims in view of the subsequent remarks regarding the above-mentioned independent claims.

I. Remarks re amended or newly presented claims

The amendments to claims 19 and 20 involve non-substantive matters (*e.g.*, improper dependencies, lack of antecedence, or typographical errors). More specifically, the amendments to these claims merely ensure that they do not depend from a canceled claim. Therefore, the Applicant asserts that these recently amended claims do not constitute new matter and should be entered in the current application.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests admission of these claims in present application. Moreover, these amendments do not narrow the associated claim nor relate to patentability. Rather, they are only clarifying amendments that make explicit what was previously implicit.

II. Remarks re 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,317 issued to David ("Lacombe Patent"). Claim 18 has been canceled. Since this anticipation rejection does not apply to any independent claims and the allowance of the dependent claims necessarily follows allowable independent claims, claim 19 is allowable if their corresponding independent claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

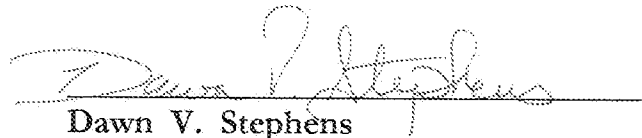
Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are currently pending in the patent application; claims 1-17 have been designated as allowable. Claims 19-20 have been amended. Since the Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 19 is allowable, corresponding dependent claims are also allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the pending claims in view of the previous remarks regarding the above-mentioned independent claims.

While it is believed that this response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

It is believed that this response is timely filed without an extension of time. If there is an error, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to apply any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

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